



My day with Oncology Pharmacy - Italy

Fabrizio Festinese¹

¹ASST Lodi, Lodi Italy

1. Introduction

In form of an ESOP survey in May 2024, professionals were asked about their working situation in preparation and/or delivering of read-to-use or oral cytotoxic drugs.

All relevant daily working processes as activities in prescription and validation of cytotoxic drugs as also their clinical pharmaceutical support in patient care are addressed.

This poster presents the actual situation of Italian members registered in ESOP.

2. Material and method

The survey with 17 questions was translated into different languages and performed nationally using a web based application, the questions covered several fields.

Profession and workplace - Coverage of working field as: Specific infusions, Number of produced medications per day, Validation of prescription from physicians, Form of prescription (electronically or paper based by email, fax, telephone call...), Release of produced medications, Pass on materials into work space, Usage of the ESOP database for oral drugs, Patient consultation in medical properties, side effects and setting up medication schedules, Invested working hours in oncological activities.

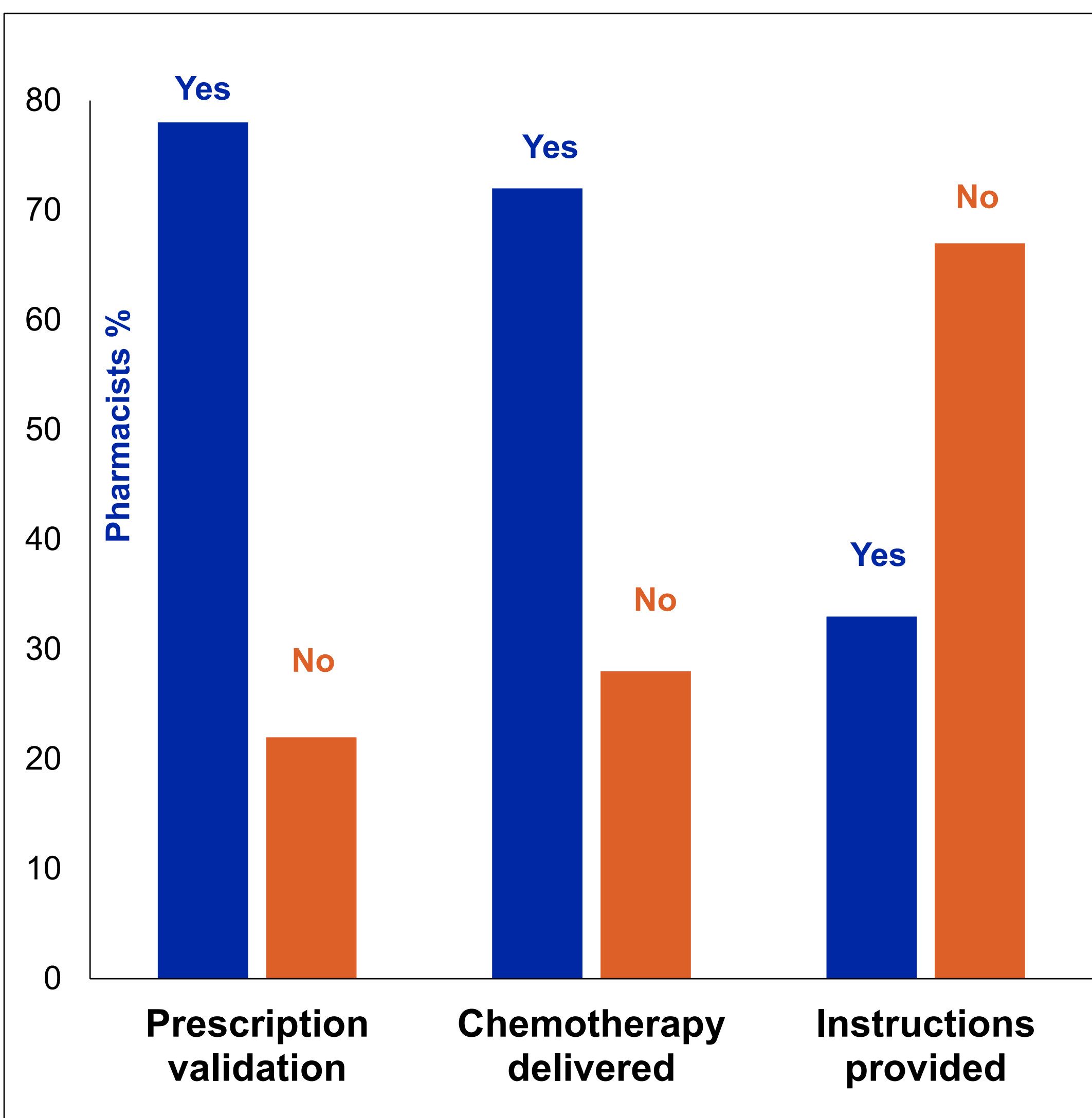


Fig.1: Working Condition

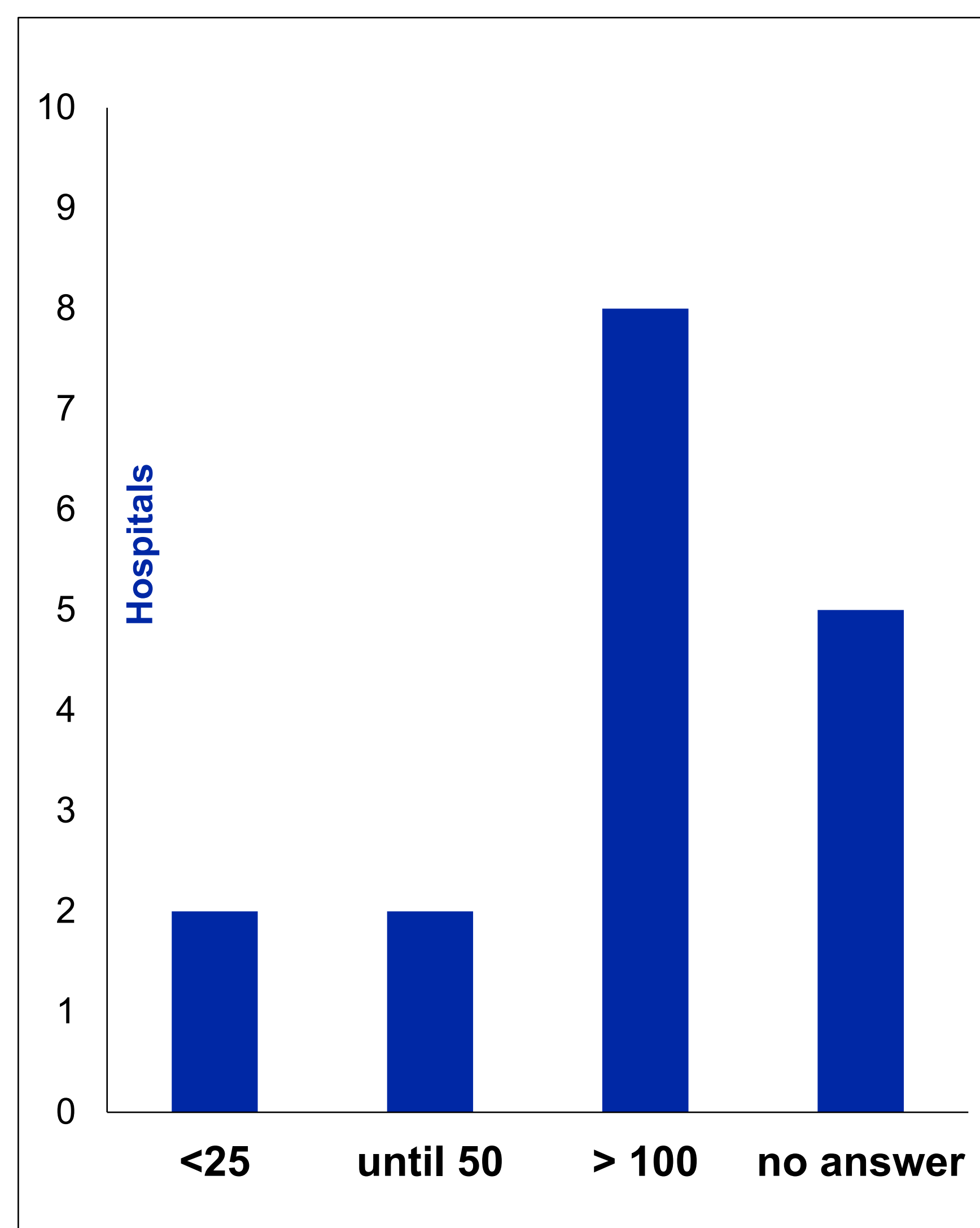


Fig.2: Daily I.V. medications produced

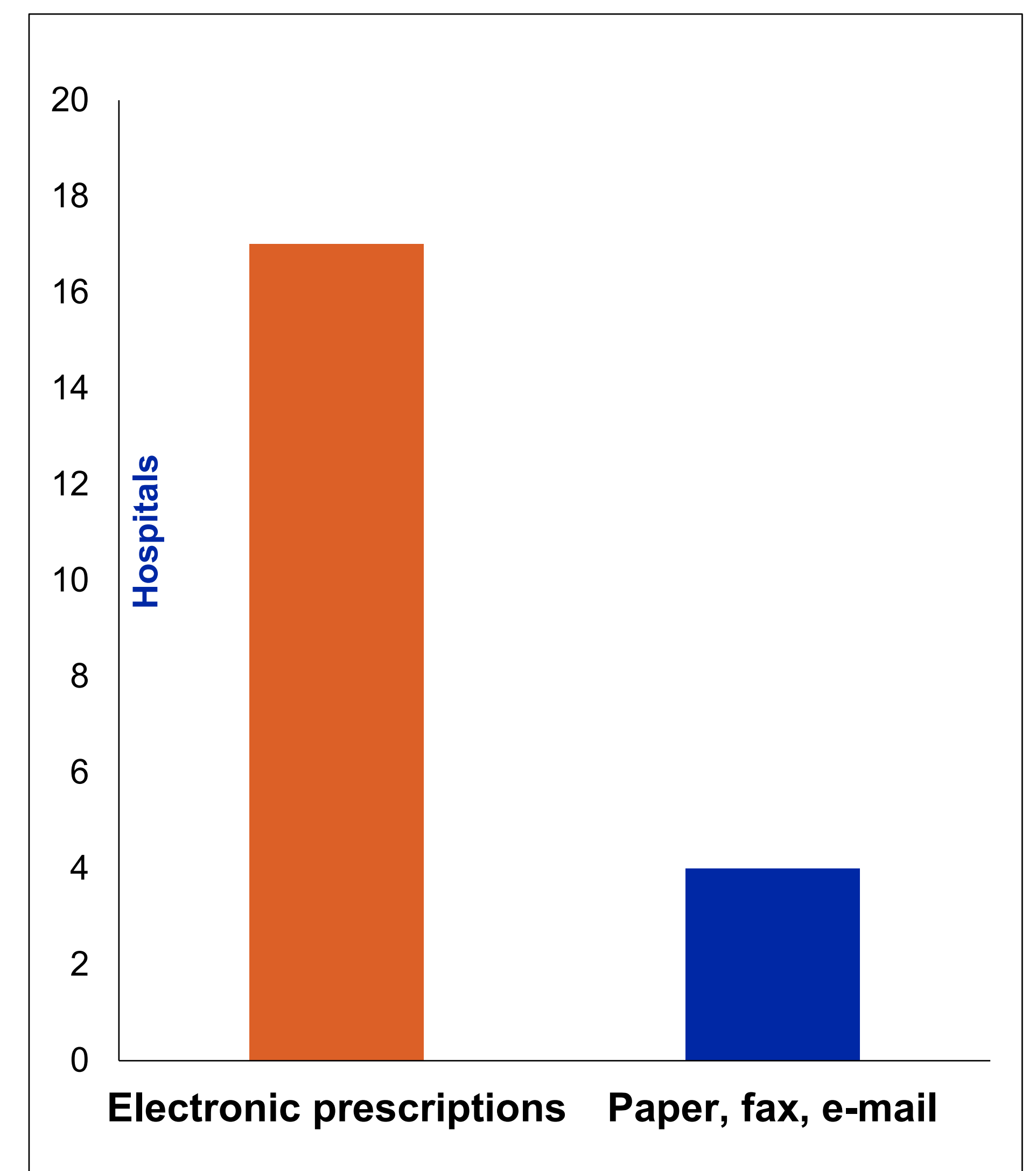


Fig.3: Form of prescription received

3. Results and discussion

Eighteen Pharmacists from 17 hospitals answered the 17 questions.

At the moment, 33% of pharmacists covering the oncological production have no additional activities on the ward. They have to invest nearly their full working capacity into the manufacturing and logistical process of cytostatics. 39% of pharmacist have also contact with oncological patients but patients care is mainly covered by special clinical pharmacists.

1. Working Conditions: 78% of pharmacists validate the physician's prescription (this activity occupies between 10% and 80% of the time), assist the preparations (between 10% and 25% of the time) and release prepared solutions (between 5% and 25% of the time).

Most of pharmacist (72%) deliver individually prescribed parenteral chemotherapy and the 39 % have the possibility of providing personal consultation (22% provide patients with oral cancer medications): only 33% provide patients with instructions how to handle the cytotoxic drugs. In general, the time spent on average with oncology pharmacy in the working day occupies between 1 and 8 hours per day.

2. Number of produced i.v. medications:

Two hospitals have a daily production capacity until 50, 8 produce more than 100 and 2 until 25: 5 didn't answer.

3. Form of prescription

All the 17 hospitals get mainly electronic orders prescriptions, 4 receive also paper, fax and email-based prescriptions.

Conclusion

Compared to the 2022 survey, the percentage of pharmacists who receive prescriptions by paper and fax has decreased (20 % vs 16%) and many other activities have changed in 2 years.

The current survey was intended to understand how a day of the oncological pharmacist takes place and what are the most impact activities: a new survey is necessary to analyse how all these data change over the years.

Contact

Fabrizio Festinese
Viale Savoia 1, Lodi Italy
Fabrizio.festinese@gmail.com